

Friendly Messenger

December 2023

December 3 is New Years Day for us on the liturgical calendar. The old year is almost completed and the new year beginning.

This past year has brought many changes in the lives of our faith community. We have walked through the valley of the shadow of death and also climbed the highest mountain peaks. We have cried together and we have celebrated together. Through it all, you and I have walked hand in hand as we served our risen Lord and Savior in ways that brought care, comfort and joy.

On a personal note, I want to thank each of you for welcoming me as your interim pastor. God put us back together after 23 years and I cherish my time with you as you prepare to call a new pastor.

Many thanks for the gifts at the end of October: a McDonald's gift card which I use each Sunday morning in Hudson to purchase an Egg McMuffin and medium coffer with two creams. Also for a Visa gift card which I've used so far to purchase a new home communion kit. Pastor Blume gave me my first kit and, over the years, it has begun to come apart.

As we wait, watch, pray and prepare during the season of Advent, we do so with the expectation that Jesus will return to earth one day and gather us up to his everlasting kingdom.

In the meantime, walking through the month of December, we will find the quiet, peaceful feeling of kneeling with the shepherds at the manger; we will be amazed as the angels sing, "peace on earth, good will to all" from the starry sky on Christmas Eve.

Most of all, good people of Sardis, we will hold each other close to our hearts and in prayerful thanksgiving that we truly make a difference for the Church, the World and all God's people. Amen.....let it be so.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

Blessings
Pastor Mary Louise



Patsy Weaver Johnson grew up at Sardis and thinks everyone knows who she is. She was baptized, confirmed and married Rick Johnson here on May 12, 1979.....44 years ago.

Rick Johnson grew up at Belk Memorial Presbyterian in Longview, a congregation that no longer exists. Rick began worshiping at Sardis after he met Patsy. Rick and Patsy met through friends, but I'm told Dorothea Wyant had a lot to do with them getting together.

What you might not know or remember, was that Rick and Patsy had a terrible motorcycle accident on the Old Shelby Road. They went down an embankment and both of them were injured. Rick had surgery but Patsy came away with minor injuries.

Their story could have been a lot different but God protected them.

Patsy and Rick raised two sons and a daughter: Christopher who is now married to Dakota; Derrick, married to Brittany and has three children; and Heather, married to Ethan, with two children.

In order to raise their family, Patsy worked at King Hickory Furniture for 36 years, in the Payroll Department.

Rick started working at a service station, then a fireman, and then changed his work career by spending many years at King Hickory Furniture, Hickory Hill Furniture and Hickory-White Furniture. Currently, Rick is working at Corning. So if you ever need your windshield cleaned or gas put in your tank OR you need to be rescued from a fire OR you need some furniture, Rick could be the person you're searching for.



Patsy seems to be the calm and steady one in this relationship. Rick, on the other hand, has a tendency to sometimes find himself in trouble. For example: one Halloween, he was on the second level of a barn, ready to scare trick-or-treaters. The board he was standing on broke – and Rick fell down two stories! Fortunately, no bones were broken.

Another time, Rick was working on one of his sons buildings. This was May 1, 2008. He fell to the ground, broke an ankle and hurt his eye socket. Not good.

As far as foods go, Patsy likes it all! She will refuse liver, however. Rick remembers his mother's chicken-broccoli casserole and he stays away from sushi.

Patsy helps with projects at Sardis. She particularly likes helping with youth activities. She recently made lunch for everyone on their leaf-raking day. She also enjoys relaxing and watching tv game shows.

Rick likes to stay busy. He enjoys being outside, fishing in the mountains and at the ocean.

Patsy and Rick cherish their Sardis family. Their hopes and dreams are that Sardis will continue to grow. They would like to see the property at the back of the church be home to a walking track and a multi-purpose building that could be used for the congregation and for the community.

Sardis is blessed by having them working side by side for the sake of the Gospel.

The **Fred T. Foard Senior Citizens** group meet on the first Wednesday of each month for lunch and a program. The group will meet in December on the 6th at Sardis Lutheran Church. Sardis to provide drinks. All are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship.



Evangelism

Christmas Party for Evangelism Committee Members and Spouses, and Sardis Shepherds and Spouses (or guest) will be at Parkhouse Family Restaurant on Monday night December 4th, 2023 at 6:00 pm. Drinks and dessert will be provided. I hope that everyone will be able to attend. Please let me know if you will *NOT* be able to come.

Thank you for being there this year and for doing your valuable work as a Shepherd for Sardis

Evangelism Chair
Ray Whitener

Christmas Lights at Charlotte Motor Speedway

Come join us for a fun night trip to see and hear the Christmas lights and music at the Charlotte Motor Speedway. Wayne and Louiselle Hedgepath from Plateau Methodist are providing the transportation. There are 13 seats available. The date is Saturday, December 9th, 2023. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex. The time is yet to be determined.

BLOOD DRIVE

Blood Drive at Sardis, Monday, December 4th, 2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Visit redcrossblood.org and enter Sardis Lutheran to schedule an appointment.

Information for NL's and Bulletins

Committee meetings or events by the congregation should be communicated to Jane directly. This needs to be done in time for newsletters (Wednesday before the last Sunday in the month), or the bulletin (by Wednesday evening each week.)

Blessings Box

The Women of the ELCA has proposed to designate the first Sunday of the month for people to bring food for our Blessings Box. Donna B or Lindsey F will give a short temple talk on the needs of the community related to food insecurity, and how the Blessing Box is operated. There will be a collection box in the Narthex on the first Sunday of the month. Nena motioned this to Council, April seconded and the motion passed.



Results of Annual Meeting Voting

2024 Budget: Passed

2024—2026 Church Council: Joe Biggerstaff, William Farnsworth, Jon Gladden, Rick Johnson

2024 Nominating Committee: Gene Biggerstaff, April Fulbright, Susan Jones, Mike Midgett, Phyllis Biggerstaff, Jill Bledsoe

2024-2026 Scholarship Committee: Donna Biggerstaff

Youth Worship Notes

As our youth grow in their faith journey, our goal is for them to participate, listen and learn during Worship. To help them during Worship, there will be Youth Worship Note cards available in the Narthex on the Sundays that we do not have children's church. Please encourage the youth to get one of these and work to complete during Worship. If you see a youth with Worship note card after Worship, ask them what they wrote down, observed or learned during Worship.



Santa Claus is Coming to Town...

WELCA is inviting you to help us be “Santa” for shut-in and semi shut-in members of our congregation! Our goal is to fill 15 gift bags to be delivered during the month of December. We will collect items on Sunday, December 3rd and Sunday, December 10th.

Sunday, December 3rd: “Cozy Items” (blanket, non-slip house shoes, etc...)

Sunday, December 10th: “Care Items” (hand cream, nail clippers, chapstick, bath soap, etc...)

Please send donations appropriate for a man or woman and drop-off in the blue bin located in the first Sunday School room on the left.



Sardis Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
October 8, 2023

Members present: Mary Louise, Susan, Jane, Dwayne, Terry, Ken, Nena, Ray, Gene.

Terry Bledsoe called the meeting to order at 5:00, Jane had devotion.

The minutes from the September meeting were discussed.

No Corrections needed:

Dwayne made a motion to approve the minutes, Ken seconded, and the motion carried.

Dwayne presented the treasurer's report from September. The Building Fund balance, \$6,284.33; Cemetery Fund balance, \$516.72; and General Fund balance \$8,361.19. Activity Statement was provided. Ken made a motion to accept the financial report, Susan seconded, motion carried.

Pastor Mary Louise gave her report: September 19 – Oct 8

Presided at Holy Communion and worship.

Made 10 home visits.

Made 1 care facility visit (COVID hit 2 facilities)

Prepared children's sermons

Helped at Trinity Ridge for chapel service.

Attended the Hickory clergy meeting.

Attended choir rehearsals.

Attended Sacred music workshop at LR.

Attended funeral for Edna Punch.

Wrote newsletter articles.

Held two counseling sessions.

Organized and planned for Sardis confirmation class:

3 students

1 time a month plus homework

4:30 – 6:00 on Thursday (usually the 1st Thursday of the month but will actually begin on October 26. Also on November 2nd and December 7th in 2023

Old Business:

Ministry Site Profile submitted to Synod

Council voted 100% approval

Call Committee will now start their work and set a training date with Synod representative, Terry expressed concern about the Synod Office not following up with emails and phone calls. He is going to call the Synod Office and talk with Pastor CeCee Mills

Terry publicly thanked Kristin Teague and her committee for creating an excellent Profile.

The document made us really look at our church and activities.

Cont. Council mins.

New Business:

Dwayne presented the 2024 Spending Plan to Council, going over each line item and explaining either increases or decreases.

The Finance Committee motioned the budget be accepted as proposed, Ken seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The budget will be presented to the congregation on November 5th at our Annual meeting.

Pastor Sitton announced that she will be at Lutheridge October 16, 17, and 18 at the NC Synod Convo.

Next Council Meeting is November 12th at 5:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted

Jane Moretz, Council Secretary

A graphic with a dark gray background featuring a low-poly, geometric pattern. In the center, the text "Church Council MEETING" is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif font. "Church Council" is on the top line, and "MEETING" is on the bottom line, both enclosed within a thin white rectangular border.

Church Council
MEETING

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thur

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3 Bring food for Blessings Box 9:30 Sunday School Youth Practice 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live	4 2:00-6:30 Blood Drive 6:00 Evangelism/Shepherds Christmas Party	5	6 12:00 FTF Seniors at Sardis...bring drinks	7 4:30—6 Confirmation 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8	9 9:00 Hanging of the Greens. Time TBD Clt. Motor Speedway Lights.
10 9:30 Sunday School Youth Practice 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 5:00 Church Council, current members and newly elected members.	11	12	13	14 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15	16 10:00 Youth leaf raking
17 9:30 Sunday School Youth Practice 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 6:00 Christmas Play followed with refreshments	18 7:00 Prayer Group	19	20	21 6:00 Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 Noisy Offering Sunday 9:30 Sunday School Youth Christmas Breakfast 10:30 Worship Service/Holy Communion and FB Live 3:00 Trinity Ridge 10:30 Candlelight Service/ Holy Communion	25 Christmas Office Closed 	26	27 5:00 Articles due for January NL.	28 NO Rehearsals	29	30
31 Noisy Offering Sunday 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Lessons and Carols / FB Live 6:30 LMM						

BIRTHDAYS

COUNCIL CONTACT

ASSISTING MINISTER

12/9 Tracy Richard
Samuel Clayton Biggerstaff

Roger Lutz

Austin Propst

12/12 Betty Jo Weaver
Gene Biggerstaff

USHERS

Zach S., Ralph S., Wayne J., Dianne N.

12/16 Phyllis Hood

12/20 Heather J. Carroll

12/27 Steven Yow

12/29 Dawn Covington

Barbara E. Whitener

12/31 Betty Sue Whitener

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Jane Moretz

CLEAN-UP

Marilyn Teague

Anniversaries:

Tim & Barbara Whitener 12-18

Donald & Evelyn Fulbright 12-21

New Address
Monte Speagle RM 102
Gateway Rehab & Nursing
2030 Harper Ave NW
Lenoir NC 28645

<i>VOLUNTEER Dec.</i>	3rd	10th	17th	24th AM	24th PM	31st
ALTAR FLOW.	Susan	Amy	LMM	Wayne & Elaine	—	Sardis
ACOL/ CRU.	Rick/Keaton	Hayden/Nena	Marilyn/Bruce	Paisley/Cayden	Marshall/Hayden	Tryston/Ray
COMM. ASSIST.	Mike	Sandra	Dawn	Bruce	Roger	No Communion
GREETERS	Marshall/Wanda	Al/Sylvia	Ben & Edna	Rita/Nena	Darrell / Diane	Bruce & Sharon
LAY READER	Austin	Marilyn	Ray	Jon	Al	
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Jennifer	No Children's Church	Heather	No Children's Church	No Children's Church	No Children's Church
TECHNOLOGY	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel	Terry, Ben, Joe, Samuel
SECURITY	Zachary	Roger	Rick	Ralph	Darrell	Bruce
OFFE- COUNT	Dwayne Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Dwayne Tryston, Sherrie, Mike	Dwayne Tryston, Susan, Patsy	Dwayne, Tryston Kristin, Nena	Dwayne Tryston, Sylvia, Sandra	Dwayne Tryston, Sherrie, Mike
SUNDAY SCH LEADER	Christmas Play Practice	Christmas Play Practice	Christmas Play Practice	Pre-K Nena EL Donna MD April	—	Pre-K Jennifer EL Sherrie/Mike MD Jon
BACKPACK PROGRAM	7th Dwayne & Barbara	14th Joe & Phyllis	No School	No School	—	No School
MEAL DEL.	9th No Meal	16th Nena	23rd No Meal	30th Donna	—	6th No Meal
Blessings Box	LMM	Pilgrims Progress	Disciples of Christ	Church Council	—	LMM



**American
Red Cross**

GIVE SOMETHING THAT
Means Something®

GIVE BLOOD

Blood Drive Sardis Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall
6103 NC Hwy 10 W
Hickory, NC 28602

**Monday, December 4th
2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Sardis Lutheran
to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting
RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health
history questions on the day of your appointment.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®

**Our gift to you: Come give Dec. 1 to 17 for a \$10
Amazon.com Gift Card by email. rcblood.org/Amazon**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

Schedule your blood donation appointment today!

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Corinth Baptist Church

7929 N.C. Hwy. 10 West - Vale, North Carolina 28168
Phone (704)-462-1547 Fax 704-462-1597

Rev. Jim Kilby
Pastor

Harold Whitener
Music Director

JoAnne Petty
Church Clerk

Malcolm Teams
Deacon Chairman

Debbie Martin
Sunday School Director

Jessica Amedio
Secretary

To Our Sister Churches and Friends,

We, at Corinth Baptist Church, would like to invite you and your friends to join us as we celebrate Christ's birth. We will be having a drive-thru Live Nativity here at Corinth, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, December 1st-3rd from 6-8 p.m. We would like to ask if you might make this announcement to your church family and friends.

If you would need any additional information, please contact the church office at 704-462-1547. Thank you for your help in getting this information to the community.

Sincerely,
Corinth Baptist Church Nativity Committee

OUR MISSION

Sardis Evangelical Lutheran Church serves together as disciples of Christ, teaches the word to invite people into a life of knowing Jesus, encourages each other in faith and personal mission through reaching out to the needs of the community and individuals.

REMEMBER: you can find this NL, the weekly calendar and Sunday Sermons on the website: <https://sardislutheran.com/> mark it as a favorite and check it out often.

SARDIS LUTHERAN CHURCH
6103 W NC 10 HWY
HICKORY NC 28602



SARDIS LEADERS CONTACTS

Interim Pastor: Rev. Mary Louise Sitton 423-367-6173 mlsitton50@hotmail.com

Organist/Director of Music: Frank Griffin, tfgriffin59@gmail.com

Council Chair: Terry Bledsoe (C) 828-455-4103 terrybledsoe@charter.net

Secretary/Treasurer: Jane Moretz, (C) 828-302-8458 secretary@sardislutheran.com